

BALL FANS WILL BE RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT GAME IS ASSURED FOR SEASON OF 1918

CLEVELAND CLUB IS DARK HORSE IN PENNANT RACE; CREEPS UP ON LEADERS IN THE LAST WEEK

Fohl's Team Has Won 12 Out of Last 16 Games and Is Going Better Than Other Aspirants for American League Flag

ALTHOUGH the American League pennant has been awarded to Boston and Chicago, it would not be at all surprising if both of these favorites were left at the post and a dark horse came in under the wire and won the pennant. The hand-to-hand battle for the hoariest championship has attracted widespread interest, but don't lose sight of another club in the list. We are referring to Cleveland, the team which surprised the Red Sox by taking three straight games and keeping Harry's men anchored in second place. The Indians are playing well baseball at present and have a good chance to catch up with the leaders before the end of the month. The pitchers are going good and the players have regained their batting eyes. This combination means nothing but victory, and the record since June 25 proves it. On that day Cleveland played St. Louis and won by the score of 9 to 6. Since that time sixteen games have been played and only four were lost. The Tribe took three out of four from the Browns, split a four-game series with the White Sox, took four out of five from the Browns in St. Louis and three straight from Boston. Only two games have been lost this month, which is SOME record.

Picking up a baseball club torn by dissensions and lacking in discipline, Lee Fohl has succeeded in turning out an American League team that is able not only to hold its own with any of the other clubs, but for a time last season was a prominent factor in the pennant race. Fohl had nothing to start with. Joe Jackson had been sold, but Tris Speaker had been purchased to replace him. His pitching staff was as much of a joke as anything else, with Guy Morton out of the running and the others only desultory winners. His infield was badly cracked, with Ray Chapman badly hampered by a cracked leg. Since Fohl has arrived he has made over the outfield with Speaker, Roth and Graney, and has laid aside some youngsters who are perfectly able to take care of themselves when the occasion arises. Perhaps the best success of Fohl has been in his development of pitchers. Covalenskie, Lambeth, Bagby and Gould all have been developed under his tutelage.

Fohl's success differs widely from that enjoyed by other big league leaders. In that he has developed most of the stars who cavort on the Cleveland diamond by himself. If Fohl ever wins a pennant it will be with material he himself has brought into the majors, and not the result of the success of some other man in developing men.

Major League Baseball Is Certain for Season of 1918

IT VIRTUALLY has been decided by the big league magnates to keep baseball teams in the field next year, regardless of what may happen in Europe. This tip has been floating around Washington for the last week, and it is safe to predict that the schedules will be played out for the benefit of the stay-at-homes, even if the old-timers who have exceeded the conscriptive age limit have to fill the positions. Furthermore, each club is willing to operate at a loss in order to keep the parks open.

One of the arguments in favor of this move is that baseball seems to be in no danger of being taxed. It will be remembered that a tax of 10 per cent was about to be plastered on the national pastime, but it is believed that such a measure has been thrown into the discard, since it is the purpose of the revenue committee to leave the poor man's entertainment alone. The movie films, which offer a greater opportunity for wartime taxation than baseball, escaped the drastic tax because it was pleaded that the every-day man who pays a dime to see the flitting films cannot afford to pay more even if the additional contribution goes into the Government's coffers. And baseball takes its place alongside the movies as the every-day man's means of recreation. Another thing to be considered is that the public must have some diversion and the popular mind must be taken off the grim and sordid happenings over in Europe. If interest can be diverted even for a time to the pennant races, it will be a great benefit.

The Boost President Wilson handed to intercollegiate sports last month, when he said that the war should not curb athletic contests to any great degree, has had its effect in baseball circles, even though the President did not speak specifically of organized professional sport.

Heavy Percentage of Stars Are Eligible for Conscription

THE greatest danger the 1918 baseball season faces is the possibility that the stars of the game may be drafted. While baseball is to be favored so far as taxation is concerned, the human factors of the game are to receive no special consideration, and if they are drafted they must go. A heavy percentage of the major league players are eligible for conscription, but if the law of averages holds good not more than 20 or 25 per cent of them will actually be drawn for fighting. It is pretty certain that the line-ups all over both circuits next year will be as nearly intact as could be hoped for.

The possibility of a decline in patronage is something that the magnates will anticipate. With a real war whirring on the other side, it is not to be expected that Americans here are to give undivided interest to mere pennant races. But the lords of the national game have divined that it will be better to keep both the big leagues going in 1918, even if every club is run at a loss, than to allow big league baseball to lapse.

UNTOLD damage might be done to the game as a big-time proposition if the major leagues were to cancel the season. As a matter of safety and strategy rather than as a play for profits, baseball will be continued.

Sam Langford, the Boston Tar Baby, Is Through

ADMITTEDLY always one of the best in his class, but always shunned by champions, black and white, Sam Langford, negro heavyweight, is through. He fought them all, Sam did. He never barred any of the heavyweights. He fought plenty of them, but he won most of them. His defeat at the hands of Fred Fulton, Minnesota heavy, is something no man has accomplished in a decisive fashion since he began wrecking hopes of near-champions. Gunboat Smith once had an idea he had stopped the career of Langford as a prominent heavyweight when he outpointed the black demon in Boston in 1912. He was so confident he went back for more, and Sam stopped him. Harry Wills defeated Langford in 1916, and in his very next fight Sam popped Wills on the chin and stopped him. Sam McVey and Joe Jeannette both have victories to their credit over Langford, but Langford has knocked out both these rivals.

Since Langford began boxing as a featherweight his record runs down the list of great fighters in every division. He fought Joe Gans when Joe was a whizz and he won in fifteen rounds. He outpointed Young Griffo, the marvel. He stopped Willie Lewis, fought a draw with Joe Walcott and lost to Jack Johnson before Jack became champion. Jim Barry, now dead, was a persistent challenger of Langford and Sam always was accommodating. He stopped Jim several times and won many other victories over him. Jeannette, Wills and McVey appear many, many times in Langford's record, and he holds the best of these clashes by a good margin.

LANGFORD was the only man Jack Johnson really feared when Johnson was champion. He was the only man Johnson refused consistently to have anything to do with. Langford challenged Johnson repeatedly. Many efforts were made to get Johnson to meet him, but Johnson paid the Boston Tar Baby the compliment of always squirming away.

Star College Twirler Expounds Gospel on the Sabbath

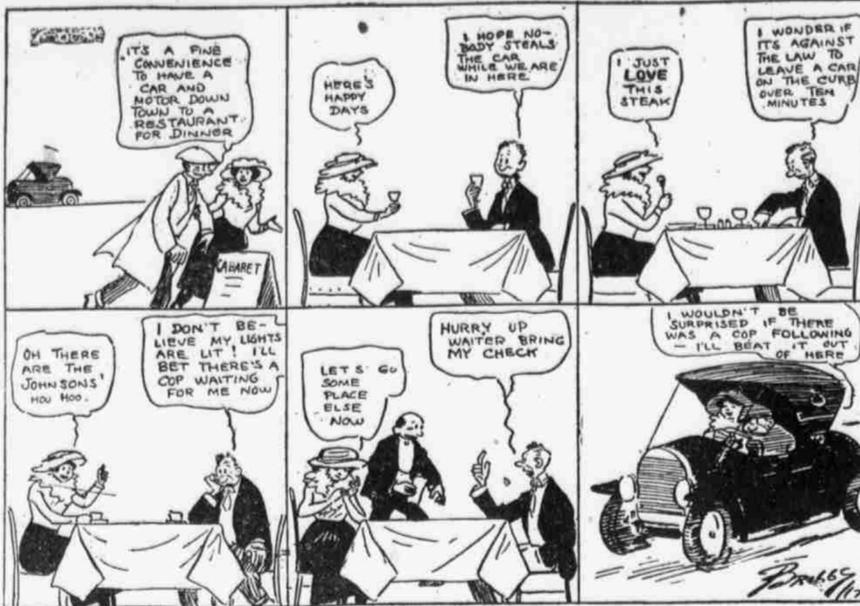
IF YOU were a pitcher and had a record of striking out seventy-seven men in thirty-four innings, and during these thirty-four innings had allowed only three safe hits to be made off your delivery, would you follow the national game as a profession, or would you throw aside your chances to win fame and glory in the big leagues and become a preacher of the gospel? This is the question that is bothering A. C. McKinney, a student of William Jewell College, at Liberty, Mo. During the week McKinney attends college and pitches invincible ball, but when Sunday arrives he adds "Rev." to his name, dons a frock coat and occupies the pulpit in the Christian Church at Bosworth, Mo.

Whether McKinney ever breaks into the big leagues or takes up preaching, he certainly has made a record that any veteran would envy. Pitching for his college team in four games he struck out seventy-seven men in thirty-four innings, pitched two no-hit games and allowed but three hits in the quartet of games. He set a new world record in one of these games by fanning twenty-five men in nine innings against Tarkio College, and the following week caused twenty-three members of the Missouri State Normal to fan. In both games he held his opponents hitless.

McKINNEY has not been overlooked by the ivory hunters and has had several offers from the big league teams. Branch Rickey had him working out at the Cards' ball park a couple of weeks ago.

OUT in Coatesville they have a team that has outhit the teams of Cincinnati and Detroit. According to Manager Jones, of the Coatesville baseball team, its batting average for nine games is .444. According to the recent averages of the National and American Leagues, Cincinnati leads the Tanager league in batting with an average of .267, and Detroit leads all the Johnson clubs with an average of .553. So one can see that Manager Jones must have a team composed of sluggers. Manager Jones is willing to swear to the accuracy of the batting averages of his players. In fact, the players will admit it themselves.

MOVIE OF A MOTORIST ENJOYING A MEAL IN TOWN



WESTERN GOLFERS ARE MAKING HISTORY IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN WHICH OUMET IS PLAYING

Tournament Will Rank as One of the Most Important Ever Held—E. V. Lansdale Makes Hole Three Times From Tee

THE amateur golf championship of the West, which is now being played, is interesting in more ways than one. In the first place, there is the presence of so many eastern and southern players, somewhat of a novelty in an association championship event. Then there is the appearance of Francis Oumet, whom the United States Golf Association has branded as a professional. The third element of interest is the first tryout of the new stymie rule.

There are only five golfers in the State of Georgia who are eligible to play in the national amateur championship, and four of them are youngsters well under the twenty-one-year mark, and the fifth is the father of one of these boys. And all five of them qualified for the championship.

It was reported, but not confirmed, that an effort would be made to prevent the amateurs, both from the East, West and South, from competing in the western championship if Oumet were allowed to play, but the fact that the field was a large one and unusually representative shows there is nothing to the story. But it is certain that the United States Golf Association officials frowned upon the whole tournament, and the national body has enough trouble on its hands already without going out of the way to find others.

The sympathy of the American golfers goes with Oumet, and most of them will be delighted if he wins the western championship. Ever since that memorable day at Brookline when, playing against two of the greatest masters of golf in the world, the younger or nineteen made both of them crack and won for the first time the open championship of this country he has been the golf idol.

Oumet the Same

Most golfers see no difference between the Oumet of those days when he was a low-priced clerk in a sporting goods store and the Oumet of today, who is the senior member of a firm which sells sporting goods. Had Oumet desired to trade upon his golfing reputation, he would be much better off financially today than he is. It is known that he turned down a number of offers which would have brought him in a lot of money, and from the day that he was barred from amateur competition he has conducted himself in a very sportsmanlike way. Most of us believe him to be a simple amateur, and no action on the part of the national body is going to change our minds.

Perhaps the westerners have not altogether solved the stymie question, but they have taken a step forward. Most golfers are perfectly willing to play stymies provided they lay them themselves, but one and all object to the other fellow doing it. At any event, the new plan by which the man whose ball is nearest the hole and who stymies the other player plays his ball first will have a tryout, and if it does not work out well, there is plenty of chance to try it in some other form.

Chicago Well Represented

The announcement made during the open championship last week that the westerners had been called off gave the westerners a splendid opening, and the field now playing for the championship is one of the best ever seen on a national course. It is likely that ever seen on a national course. It is likely that the next western champion will come from the Chicago district, as it has an overwhelming number of men who have qualified, and numbered among them are some of the finest players in the country. Yet there is a possibility that Oumet, Anderson or some of the southern aggregation may be triumphant. In any event, it will prove to be one of the most interesting championships ever held in this country, and golfers generally applaud the westerners for the opportunity they have given Oumet to play against the men he should be playing against.

Philadelphians who have met him either at Seaview or Pine Valley were much impressed with the gentlemanly youngster from Boston. He is unquestionably one of the four or five best golfers in the country, and he easily ranks with Chick Evans, Jerry Travers and Bob Gardner and the other top-notchers.

The Tenth Hole

Last week I mentioned some of the holes around Philadelphia that have been made in one shot from the tee. In talking about the Philadelphia Cricket Club hole, Francis B. Warner mentioned that the old tenth had been made in one shot, but he did not remember who had done it. The matter is cleared up by this letter from J. I. Lineaweaver:

Dear Sir—In your recent comment on golf holes made in one shot you mentioned that the tenth hole at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, or what used to be the tenth hole, i. e. the one after the ditch, had been made in one, but that the history of the incident was not recorded. I doubt if golfing annals can record a history more peculiar. Mr. E. V. Lansdale, who was playing with my brother, made the remark as he arrived at that tee that it was curious that Providence should have selected him as a medium for accomplishing the hole not only once, but twice, in one shot. He then drove off and holed a one for the third time.

SISLER DISPLACES SPEAKER IN RACE

Browns' Star Player Boosts Mark to .340 and Is Second to Ty Cobb

ROUGH GAINS ONE POINT

George Sisler, the versatile star now on the payroll of the St. Louis Browns, yesterday batted his way into second place in the American League race. Sisler made four hits out of eight trips to the plate against three Yankee pitchers in the seven-inning game and boosted his mark from .326 to .340, passing Speaker by one point. The Indian outfielder was kept idle on account of rain. Cobb failed to make a hit out of three times up and lost one point, falling to .338.

It also will be noted that Sisler has come to bat oftener than any other player in either league and has made almost as many hits as Cobb. Sisler has been to bat 365 times and has pounded out 125 hits, against 108 for Cobb. Ty has been to bat only 284 times.

Rough gained another point on Cruise in the National League batting race. The Cincinnati outfielder made five visits to the plate against the Braves and accounted for two hits, boosting his mark from .449 to .350. Cruise, of the Cards, did not play, but has a chance to gain today, as the Cards play a double-header with the Braves.

Wheat, fourth in the list, lost one point in the double-header with the Cubs, making two hits out of seven times up. His mark now is .316.

NATIONAL LEAGUE					
	G.	A.	B.	P. C.	
Ronah, Cincinnati	79	256	43	92	256
Cruise, St. Louis	75	248	36	92	343
Wheeler, Pittsburgh	48	139	19	46	231
Wheat, Brooklyn	59	215	27	68	316
Hornsbury, St. Louis	71	251	47	78	331

AMERICAN LEAGUE					
	G.	A.	B.	P. C.	
Cobb, Detroit	76	284	38	108	323
Sisler, St. Louis	77	300	31	105	340
Speaker, Cleveland	78	280	45	95	320
Melvin, Athletics	71	271	23	85	314
Chapman, Cleveland	81	286	49	87	311

RUGGED RECORD OF COLLINS AND BURNS NOTABLE IN DAYS WHEN PLAYERS ARE FRAGILE AS GLASS

Neither Has Missed a Game Since 1914, Giant Marathon Man But One Out of 560—Fate Slams Yanks Again

By GRANTLAND RICE
Thoughts of the Average Man on War

I've no desire to plug a guy
With bayonet or bomb;
I'd hate to shoot out some one's eye
Or even smash his thumb;
I have no yearning in my breast
To wade through human gore;
In place of filling me with zest,
It leaves me rather sore.

But if the old flag needs me and I feel that I am due
To swing into the battle line and help to see it through,
I'll be there when the time arrives to take my turn at bat,
To take the scrimmage as it comes and let it go at that.

AMONG records worthy of more than passing note are those now held by Eddie Collins and George Burns in their respective leagues. In these baseball days and eras, when so many ball players are so easily wounded and rendered inert, where so many are showing to play even 140 games a year, the showing made by the Giant and White Sox stars is an unusual affair.

There are any number of ball players who are unable to play over a month before fading out or falling back for repairs.

But neither Burns nor Collins has missed a ball game since 1914—a matter of three years or the better part of the same.

Burns in this respect has been a marvel. He started as a regular with the Giants in 1912. Here is his record:
1912—150 games.
1914—154 games.
1915—155 games.
1916—155 games.
1917—155 games.

In the last 560 games which the Giants have played Burns has missed only one game—the second section of a double-header near the end of the season with the race decided and nothing at stake.

Eddie Collins hasn't played in as many games as Burns has since 1913, but Eddie has a trifle the better of the consecutive game record since 1914.

You can gamble your bit that no fragile frame or frail system is going to carry through 375 consecutive games. The stamina and tenacity and ruggedness of Burns and Collins are well up to their ability as ball players, which is far from being slight.

It was more than a shame the way Russia was doped to be out of the war for good. She was almost as far out of the war as the Giants are now out of the National League pennant race.

L. H. G.—So far as we know, Larry Jenkins, British amateur golf champion, is still alive. He was among the first to leave for the front in 1914, but we have seen no record of his death.

Back to Fate

The Yankees still flutter under the old shadow. There are those who say there is no such thing as Fate, but how does any one account for the various misfortunes which seem to pursue one club year after year? Last season at this date the Yanks were leading the league. At which point they lost Cullip, Gilhooly, Baker, High and Caldwell.

This season they were moving along nicely when they lost Gilhooly, Shocker, Walters and Caldwell again.

Not here are the victories glowing;
Or, as the poet almost said:
Not here is the pennant sweet;
The grass, as our hearts are growing,
Aye, dark as the doom we meet;
But stand to your bluejeans steady
Wherever the old flag flies;
One cup to the manhood already—
Huzrah for the next who dies!

A Star for Uncle Sam

Your Uncle Samuel draws one of the stars of the Commonwealth in the announcement

that Robert A. Gardner, of Chicago, is to join the officers reserve corps.

Gardner, a Yale track star from the old days and twice amateur golf champion, is not only an all-around athlete, but the country knows no finer sportsman. He is one of the hardest fighters in sport, but also one of the cleanest and squarest.

Gardner first became the amateur golf champion in 1909, when he was still a Yale undergraduate. He doesn't get a world of time for golf, but he came back with a second victory at Detroit in 1915. Last year at Merion he went to the final round, despite an infected finger, before he was overthrown by Evans. The game has never known a more courageous entry.

MAIN LINE RIFLEMEN WIN NATIONAL HONORS

Club Captained by E. B. Cassatt Makes Excellent Showing

The Main Line Rifle Club carried off first honors in Class G, in which were entered civilian rifle teams from all over the United States, in this year's event, which has just at Merion in the war. The Main Line club amassed a team total of 9318 points out of a possible 10,000.

The competition is an annual one under the auspices of the War Department for rifle teams from all parts of the United States.

The Main Line Rifle Club has been in existence a little more than one year and is headed by Captain E. B. Cassatt, who is president. The other officers are: Vice president, Dr. G. L. S. Jameson; treasurer, Henry G. Garber; executive officer, Horace B. Hare; assistant executive officer, Clifton Lisle; secretary, Francis G. Okie.

HITTING THE BULL ADDS \$50 TO G. BURNS'S B. B.

George Burns, of the Giants, will receive a check for \$50 at the Polo Grounds July 24 for hitting the Bull Durham sign here June 27.

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